

Application Serial No.: 10/072,345
Attorney Docket No.: 0190142

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6-13 and 15-19, and has objected to claims 5, 14 and 20. By the present amendment, claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended, and claims 5, 14 and 20 have been cancelled. An early allowance of outstanding claims 1-4, 6-13 and 15-19 in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

A. Objection to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the misspelling of the word “shift” on line 22, page 7 of the specification. By the present amendment, applicant has amended the specification to cure the error. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner’s objection has been overcome.

B. Rejection of Claims 1-3, 7-9, 12, 15-16 and 18 under 35 USC §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 7-9, 12, 15-16 and 18, under 35 USC §102(b), as being anticipated by Yamada, et al. (USPN 5,754,226) (hereinafter, “Yamada”).

Applicant respectfully disagrees; however, in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, applicant has amended claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claim 5. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, is now in condition for allowance, at least based on the Examiner’s statement that claim 5 would be allowable if

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rewritten to include all of the limitations of claim 1. Similarly, applicant has amended independent claims 8 and 15 to include the limitations of claims 14 and 20, respectively. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8 and 15, as amended, are now in condition for allowance, at least based on the Examiner's statement that claims 14 and 20, respectively, would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of claims 8 and 15, respectively. Further, claims 2-3, 6-7, 9-12 and 16-18 depend from claims 1, 8 and 15, respectively, and are now in condition for allowance.

C. Rejection of Claims 4, 13 and 19 under 35 USC §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 4, 13 and 19, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Yamada in view of Examiner's Official Notice.

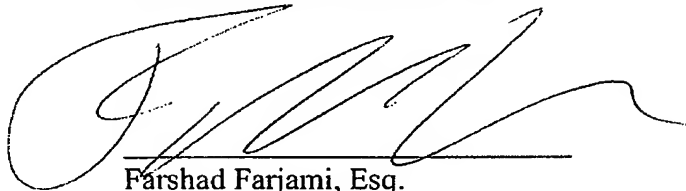
It is respectfully submitted that claims 4, 13 and 19 depend from claims 1, 8 and 15, respectively, and are now in condition for allowance.

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D. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing reasons, an early Notice of Allowance directed to all claims 1-4, 6-13 and 15-19 pending in the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,
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March 17, 2006.
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